

MARCH 26, 1887.

Royal Academy of Music.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee are happy to state that the Balance Sheet, which has been open during the past week for your inspection, testifies to the increasing financial prosperity of the Institution, and this notwithstanding a heavy outlay on the decoration of the Concert Room—for the first time since it was built in 1876—and of the Tenterden Street front of the Academy.

The educational success has been evinced in the public performances by the Pupils, and in the private Fortnightly Meetings with the Professors, but still more so by the results of the Annual Examination in July last; while the continued public faith in the School and its work is proved by the constant applications for admission as Students, and it is gratifying to note that among these are many from the sons and daughters of musicians, which is an obvious sign that the Academy has the confidence of the profession.

Among other appointments, each of which adds strength to the professoriate, your Committee may particularise that of Mr. BARNBY to the Conductorship of the Choral and Orchestral Practices and of the Public Concerts, which has proved to be a powerful influence for good upon the Pupils.

A new arrangement of the Operatic Class will, it is hoped, lead to a *still* better result from this branch of the Academy's working than that which notably has crowned its course of instruction during the previous eight years of existence. The important value of practice in this class has been proved by its preparation of Students for the Stage, who are now fulfilling public engagements with credit to themselves and honour to the Academy, but also by the greater ease and

freedom than they could otherwise obtain which it gives to singers in the Concert Room. Incipient ability for dramatic composition has also been cultivated in the Operatic Class, to the extent of preparing some Students for the production of works that have been most successfully received by the world. It is the conviction of its usefulness that induces your Committee to open all possible facilities for every Vocal Student to become a Member of the Operatic Class.

Strong hope is entertained that the new Regulations you have passed on the suggestion of Mr. THRELFALL (in framing of which those Directors who belong to the legal profession spent much very careful consideration) may be pregnant with highly beneficial results. These Regulations define, for the first time since the Academy was established, what qualifications shall entitle persons to append to their names the initials R.A.M., or A.R.A.M., or L.R.A.M., and such definition may be, and is, the only means that could be a preventive of the assumption of the affix by those who are wholly unentitled to the privilege. It is expected, moreover, that the definition will be felt so to strengthen the honour of the appendage to a name, as to induce those musicians on whom it has been conferred to avail themselves generally and openly of the same, and thus to call attention to their relationship with the Academy and to the acknowledgment the Institution makes of their merit.

The Metropolitan Examination of the professional qualifications of persons who have not been trained in the Academy was attended in January last by 116 Candidates, and this is an increase of 10 upon the number that came up in 1886. The severity of the tests applied to each, and the conscientious manner in which the several boards of Examiners fulfilled their critical functions, are illustrated by the proportion of the total number—26—in all subjects, who were recommended to you for, and to whom you accorded, the title of Licentiate. The significance of this recent department of the Academical work grows from year to year, and it is expected (your Committee may hope not vainly) that in due time the world at large will have the highest respect for the Diploma of a Licentiate.

In the Local Examination that is at present in progress, 5,037 Candidates have presented themselves, whereas those in 1886 numbered 4,055. The yearly multiplication of applicants for this scrutiny of their musical ability, and the higher merit that is displayed by musical students throughout the country on every recurring visit of the Examiners, prove the importance to general culture of this department of Academical proceedings, which, like the Metropolitan Examination, is of recent establishment.

Your Committee are happy to report the continuance of the Lady Goldsmid Scholarship, the approaching election to which will be for the twelfth year that her Ladyship will have presented her liberal donation.

The Liszt Scholarship was endowed by subscription in honour of the late musician's visit to England in April last, and the first election will be held in April next.

The first election to the Sainton-Dolby Scholarship was deferred until January, 1888, because in 1887 no Candidate who was deemed by the Examiners worthy presented herself.

The munificence of Mr. RUTSON, and his interest in the cause of Art, are still notably evident in the fact that at present he pays the fees of eleven Academy Students.

The following gentlemen repeat their gift of former years in Prizes to Academy Students :—

Mr. EVILL.—The Llewellyn-Thomas Medal for Declamatory English Singing in the Female Department, and also his own Prize in the same subject in the Male Department.

Mr. HEATHCOTE-LONG.—The Prize in his own name for Pianoforte Playing in the Male Department.

Mr. BONAMY-DOBREE.—The Prize in his own name for Violoncello Playing in the Male Department.

Mr. SANTLEY.—The Prize in his own name for Accompaniment, for which both sexes may compete.

Two vacancies are at present in the number of our Vice-Presidents, whereas there are 26 instead of 25 ordinary Directors. Your Committee therefore take leave to nominate Mr. BONAMY DOBREE and Mr. J. F. H. READ to the Vice-Presidentships. If you do these gentlemen the honour of the suggested promotion the list of ordinary Directors will be reduced to 24, which will create one vacancy, and your Committee submit to your approval for this office Mr. MEADOWS WHITE, who, like the others, has expressed his willingness to serve, if you please to elect him.

In conclusion your Committee beg to remind you of the object for which the Royal Academy of Music was instituted, now nearly 65 years ago, namely, to provide such efficient education for musical Students in this country, as is furnished by the best Academies and Conservatories in the European Continent, and they refer you to the long history of the operations of this school for testimony as to whether this primal object has been fulfilled, and whether our incorporation "now and for ever as the Royal Academy of Music" be justified by the past and present doings of this nursery of native and foreign talent.

G. A. MACFARREN,

Chairman.